



Boston Authors Club

August 2022 Newsletter

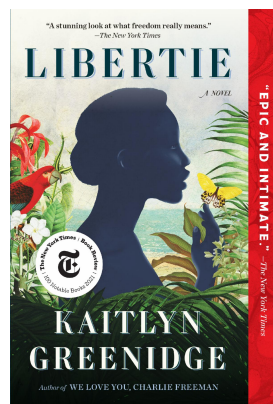
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- **SAVE THE DATE!** Monday, September 12 Awards Event & Reception
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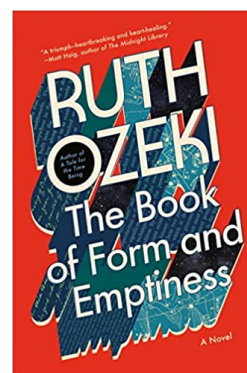
Congratulations to This Year's Julia Ward Howe Winners and Finalists!

FICTION WINNERS

Kaitlyn Greenidge for
Libertie

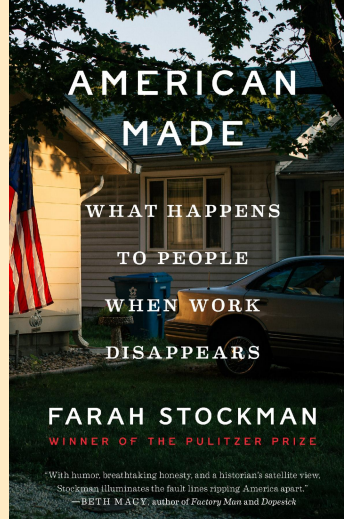


Ruth Ozecki for *The Book of
Form and Emptiness*



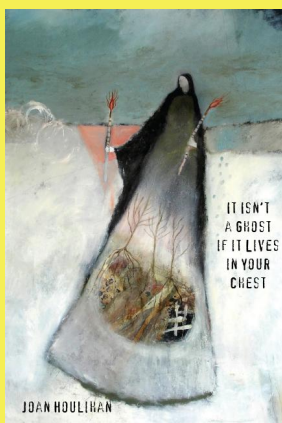
NONFICTION WINNER

**Farah Stockman for
*American Made***



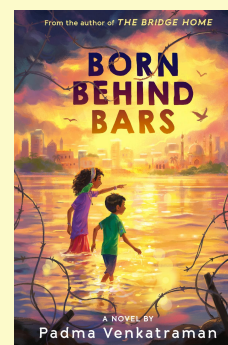
**POETRY
WINNER**

**Joan Houlihan for
*It Isn't a Ghost if It Lives
In Your Chest***



**YOUNG READERS
WINNER**

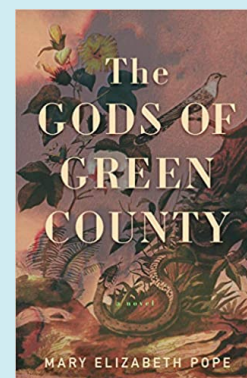
**Padma Venkatraman for
*Born Behind Bars***

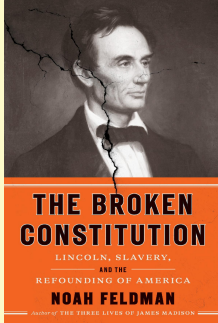


Fiction Finalists

Hanna Halperin for *Something Wild*

**Mary Elizabeth Pope for *The Gods of
Green County***

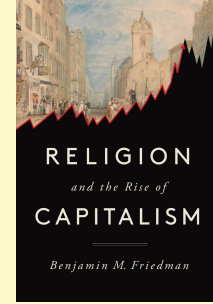




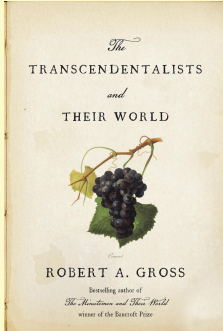
Nonfiction Finalists

Noah Feldman for *The Broken Constitution*

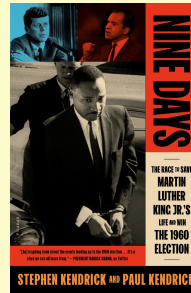
Benjamin Friedman for *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*



Robert Gross for *The Transcendentalists and their World*

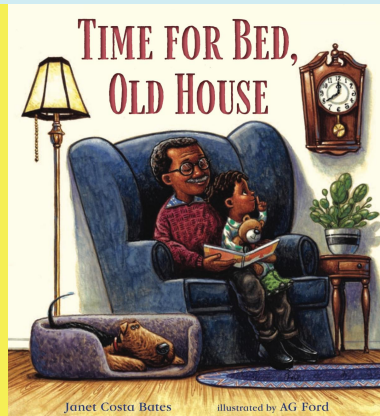
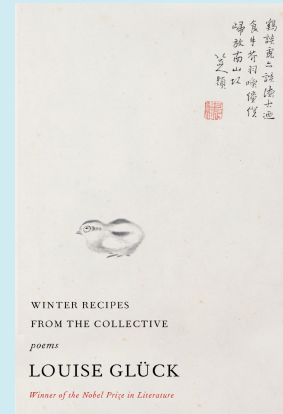


Stephen and Paul Kendrick for *Nine Days*



POETRY FINALIST

Louise Glück for *Winter Recipes from the Collective*

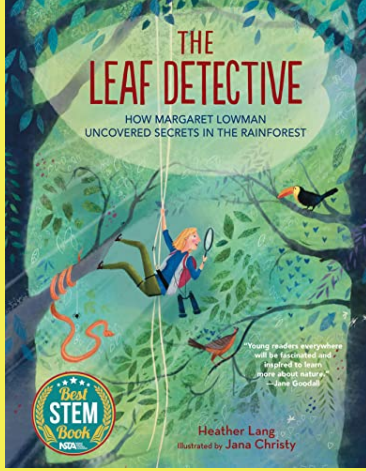


Young Reader Finalists

Janet Costa Bates for *Time for Bed, Old House*

Heather Lang for *The Leaf Detective*

Kate McGovern for *Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen*



You Are Invited to the JWH Awards Presentation and Reception on Monday, September 12

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THIS YEAR'S WINNERS AND
FINALISTS AT AN IN-
PERSON EVENT

7PM - 8:30PM
Awards and Author Remarks
Followed by a Reception

At a NEW LOCATION!



Waterworks Museum
2450 Beacon Street
Chestnut Hill, MA

This historic Museum is near Cleveland Circle, across from the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. It is accessible from the C and D Green Lines. There is also free visitor parking next to the Museum building. For Museum directions and information visit: <https://waterworksmuseum.org/>

For BAC Members - Author Gallery

AUTHOR GALLERY



Janet Costa Bates



Mary J. Cronin



Scott Guthery



Cynthia Levinson



Moying Li



Nancy Tupper Ling



Missy Montgomery



Lisa Rogers

As a service to our members, the BAC is introducing a new feature on our website --- an **AUTHOR GALLERY**

You can see the Gallery design at the left. To view individual author pages, and the content that is included visit: <https://bostonauthorsclub.org/gallery>

All current BAC members are welcome to add their author profile to the Gallery. For guidelines and a form for submitting your profile, email us! bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com

President's Note: Midsummer Musings

When the calendar turns to August each year, I find myself sighing deeply. Summer is going by too quickly. The early promise of my gardens has, for the most part, been forsaken in the extreme heat and dryness. The leisurely pace of life will change. Before we know it, the cool evenings will make the pond too cold for all but the most intrepid of swimmers. August also means I'll soon need to turn my attention back to my day job and prepare the classes I'll be teaching, rather than spending the majority of my time as I've done the past few months: doing research for my next book, writing, and reading as much as I possibly can.



No matter how many books I am actually able to read during the summer, there are always more that I want to. I'm a pretty omnivorous reader - there are equal numbers of fiction and non-fiction titles on my annual list of books read - but in the summer I definitely indulge myself more with fiction and short stories than with anything else. What a joy to sit on my screen porch, pull up a novel and get lost in it. Hours go by. There are few better ways of spending a day, and I miss the ability to binge-read fiction during the rest of the year.

Since we are turning the calendar and starting to gear up for the fall, I want to highlight that we will be returning to an in-person presentation of our Julia Ward Howe awards this year, though at a different location (the Waterworks Museum in Chestnut Hill). You can find details about this year's winners and about the event elsewhere in this newsletter.

The BAC Board is also currently planning a few other events that we hope to have in person at different locations throughout the year. Hopefully, Covid protocols will cooperate!

Wishing you all a good rest of the summer and a joyous start to the fall.

Julie Dobrow
BAC President

Yesteryear: Music Maker and Barrier Breaker

Most members of the Boston Authors Club rely on the words and phrases of the English language to express themselves and their ideas. Most, but by no means all.

In addition to her poetry and prose, Julia Ward Howe is famous for authoring *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Mabel Wheeler Daniels, now considerably less famous than Julia, was equally long-lived and even better known in her lifetime as a musical prodigy, performer, composer and writer.



In addition to her skills as a performer, Daniels was celebrated for her operettas, songs, and choruses. She was born in 1878 in Swampscott to a musical family. Many of her relatives, for example, were active in the Handel and Haydn Society, including her father, who served as the society's director and president. It is said that Mabel decided to pursue a career in music when she witnessed her father sing Verdi's *Requiem* with the Society. She wrote her first composition at 10, then continued to compose while she attended Girls Latin high school and Radcliffe College. At Radcliffe, she sang as lead soprano in student operettas and concerts, as well as composing and writing libretti for several original operettas. She graduated magna com laude in 1900 and went on to study at the New England Conservatory. Her teacher there recommended advanced work at the Munich Conservatory.

Daniels' experiences studying in Munich inspired her to write a memoir, *An American Girl in Munich: Impressions of a Music Student*, that was published by Little, Brown in 1905. Despite the somewhat demure title, it's clear that Daniels wasn't daunted by being the first woman to be admitted to study at the Munich Conservatory. It seems that she enjoyed raising eyebrows in the conservative world of music education in Germany. She recounts how she managed to navigate auditioning for a place in the a previously all-male class at the Conservatory:

"You could have heard a pin drop, the place was so still. . . . Just as I took my seat before

the keyboard, I heard one of the men smother a laugh. That settled it! I was bound to do or die, and with a calmness quite unnatural I played the bars set before me without a mistake. Nobody laughed when I had finished."

Returning to Boston, Daniels went on to be the music director of the Radcliffe Glee Club, became the head of the music program at the Bradford Academy and then at Simmons College. She continued to compose until her death in 1971.

Judging from inches of Internet coverage, Daniels' best remembered works are her opera, *Alice In Wonderland Continued*, and two choruses, *The Desolate City* and *The Song of Jael*. The later work included a poem by Edward Arlington Robinson, with whom she had a lifelong friendship after they met in 1913 at the MacDowell Colony, an artists' retreat in New Hampshire. Daniels is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery. The extensive archive of her personal papers is kept at the Schlesinger Library.

Books, poems, short stories, dictionaries – and now songs, operas, and choruses. In what other literary and publishing niches can Boston Authors Club members be found? Sermons, epitaphs, skywriting, graffiti, mathematics? Stay tuned for breaking news on **Yesteryear** this fall.

By Scott B. Guthery

SEND US YOUR NEWS !

Please send news about your activities, speaking, and new books (along with related pictures) to bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com by **AUGUST 30** for publication in the September newsletter.

authors!
AUTHORS!

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Boston Authors Club